

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 USIE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 /061 W

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O 150945Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2997

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

DA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7917

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, IR

SUBJ: BELL HELICOPTER IRAN DEVELOPMENTS

REFERENCES: A) TEHRAN 7737 B) TEHRAN 7835

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, CONSUL MET WITH BOTH BHI MANAGEMENT AND PILOT ASSOCIATION IN ISFAHAN AUGUST 14. MANAGEMENT STRESSED INABILITY TO COMPLY WITH BASIC DEMAND OF ASSOCIATION FOR RECOGNITION OF UNION AND THEREFORE TERMINATED 135 PILOT MEMBERS EVENING OF AUGUST 13. REMAINING SIXTY PILOTS TO CARRY ON WITH INSTRUCTION DUTIES ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF THESE ARE SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL.

2. BHI INTENDS TO STICK BY TERMS OF CONTRACT AND PAY FARE HOME ONLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED ONE YEAR SERVICE. THIS COMPRISES ROUGHLY HALF OR SEVENTY PILOTS PLUS FAMILY MEMBERS. ASSOCIATION HAS PLANNED TO POOL VALUE OF TICKETS AND CHARTER TWO FLIGHTS TO U.S. THEREBY

ACCOMMODATING ALL MEMBERS AND FAMILIES. PILOTS VOICED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THAT BHI WOULD MAKE TICKETS NON-REFUNDABLE AND ASKED CONSUL TO DETERMINE WHAT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE. MANAGEMENT INFORMED EMBASSY OF DECISION NOT TO LIMIT TICKETS AND THEREFORE CONFIDENTIAL

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ENABLE ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PLAN TO PROCEED.

3. AT MEETING WITH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND FAMILIES, APPROXIMATELY 350 PERSONS, CONSUL WAS ASKED WHAT EMBASSY WOULD DO IF QUOTE 200

ANGRY AMERICANS CAMPED ON DOOR OF EMBASSY DEMANDING TICKETS HOME. END
QUOTE. CONSUL RESPONDED WITH DEFINITION OF DESTITUTION AND REQUIRE-
MENTS FOR REPATRIATION, SAID EACH WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON INDIVIDUAL
BASIS AND GAVE CHAIRMAN COPIES OF LOAN REGULATIONS AND DOCUMENTS.
IT DOES NOT APPEAR LIKELY AT THIS TIME THAT IMPLIED THREAT WILL
MATERIALIZER.

4. ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS CONCERNED OVER LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED
FOR EXIT PERMITS FROM GOI WHICH ROUTINELY REQUIRE TEN DAYS. MANAGE-
MENT EQUALLY CONCERNED AND CONSUL WILL SPEAK WITH GOI OFFICIAL IN
CHARGE THIS MATTER AUGUST 16.

5. GENERAL WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT OF BHC, INFORMED CONSUL THAT GENERAL
TOUFANIAN INFORMED BELL MANAGEMENT HE HAD NAMES OF TEN RINGLEADERS
AND WAS PREPARED TO FORCE THEM TO LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS. WILLIAMS ASKED FOR A HOLD ON THIS ANTICIPATING POSSIBLE
VIOLENT REACTION ON PART OF REMAINING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.
WILLIAMS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF HE WERE FORCED TO HE WOULD CALL
TOUFANIAN TO EXECUTE THE ORDER. WILLIAMS DID NOT EXPLAIN WHAT
CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD TRIGGER SUCH ACTION.

6. IN SUMMATION:

A. SITUATION APPEARS BEYOND POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE OR AGREEMENT.

B. ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE FIRM IN DEMAND FOR RECOGNITION AND MANAGE-
MENT ADAMANT IN REFUSAL CITING IRANIAN LAW.

C. NO CONFERENCES BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATION IN OFFING TO
EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE.

D. ASSOCIATION WELL-ORGANIZED, DEDICATED AND HAS PROCEEDED WITH
PLANS TO SELL ALL FURNISHINGS AND PRIVATE VEHICLES.

E. WHILE TENTATIVE PLANS MADE TO LEAVE IRAN BY CHARTER AIRCRAFT
AUGUST 23 EMBASSY DOUBTS IF EXIT VISAS CAN BE OBTAINED IN THAT TIME.

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F. IF SITUATION WARRANTS EMBASSY OFFICER WILL RETURN TO ISFAHAN TO
ASSIST IN ANY WAY CONSISTENT WITH OUR DECLARED POSITION TO BOTH
MANAGEMENT AND LABOR OF NEUTRALITY.
HELMS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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